U.S. National Library of Medicine
National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Training Office

PubMed® for Librarians: Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

Guided Notes and Examples:

1. MeSH is the National Library of Medicine's _____ _____ thesaurus representing terms in the biomedical literature.

2. MeSH terms are organized _____ and are revised _____ .

3. Indexers assign the _____ _____ MeSH headings available to describe the topics of an article.

4. Example: Eye

    All MeSH Categories
        Anatomy Category
            Body Regions
               Head
                  Face
                    Eye
                      Eyebrows
                      Eyelids
                        Eyelashes

5. A search for a broad MeSH term _____ _____ to include the narrower, more specific terms.

6. Example: Fear

7. True or False: Search details shows all of the MeSH terms included in your search

8. The four types of MeSH terms are:

   a. _____

   b. _____

   c. _____

   d. _____

9. Example: text messaging

10. Example: Adverse effects

11. If you apply more than one subheading, they will be combined with _____.

12. Example: text messaging/utilization*

13. Example: letter

14. Publication type can describe the type of _____, the type of _____, or the source of funding.

15. Example: wolframin

Review:

1. True or False: Searching the subheading therapy will also include a search for surgery [sh]
2. What type of term is samital?
3. Look up PMID 28332850
   a. What is the publication type?
   b. What is the major topic of this article?

16. Example: total hip replacement

17. _____ _____ are synonymous or close in scope to the preferred MeSH term.

Review 2:

1. In MeSH, Look up hand washing. What is the preferred term, or MeSH heading, for hand washing?
2. Can you apply the education subheading to this term?
3. How far back can you search this concept with the MeSH heading?
4. What narrower terms would be included in the search of hand disinfection?

Links shared in class:

NTO Tutorials and Recordings: https://nnlm.gov/nto/professional-development/tutorials-recordings
Advanced PubMed Tips, Tricks, and Tools recording: https://youtu.be/ZNLrjB-FdWE
MeSH dates tutorial: https://youtu.be/CBU7FYJ5Hnk

Additional Training Resources:

• PubMed Tutorial: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/
• Branching Out: The MeSH® Vocabulary http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/video/index.html
• NLM Learning Resources Database: https://learn.nlm.nih.gov/

Contact Us:

National Network of Libraries of Medicine Training Office

nto@utah.edu
https://nnlm.gov/nto
(801) 587-3518